



Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery
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Representative Paul Seaton
State Capitol, Room 201
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Seaton:

The Alutiiq Pride Shellfish Hatchery appreciates your efforts with House Bill 60. We rely upon shellfish seed sales to cover portions of our operating expenses. Geoducks and their high value offer us the best opportunity to achieve our sales goals. To date, the demand has not been originally projected causing a perpetual shortfall in revenue. Opening additional markets in south-central Alaska will help alleviate this deficit.

We are often frustrated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and their regulation of transport. It is ironic that we can transport a non-indigenous species such as oysters and cannot transport a native species outside what is considered its natural range. The fact that it will probably be non-reproductive in south- central Alaska should make management easy.

I would suggest we promote a cooperative demonstration project exploring the feasibility of geoduck farming in south-central Alaska headed by the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Commerce and the Chugach Regional Resources Commission. The shellfish hatchery can provide geoduck seed for such an effort.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hetrick, Director